

# HEARTS FOR SALE NEXT, PROF. WARNS

**P**ROFESSOR R. D. WRIGHT last night warned that human hearts could eventually be offered for sale in the same way as blood is now sold in America for \$(US) 25 a pint.

Prof. Wright, from the Physiology Department of Melbourne University, was addressing a seminar organised by the Australian fellowship of the Israel Medical Association.

"The lawyers have never been game to look ahead of human need," Professor Wright said.

"What's a heart going to be worth?"

"The problem of transference was pretty well solved, but who was going to control the transplants?" he asked.

"That is going to be the most serious problem because, of course, if you remove a heart then that person is dead," he said.

Professor L. Waller, of the Law Faculty at Monash University, said: "The law hasn't had very much to do with dead bodies and their disposal.

"But there are probably substantial legal doubts as to whether the donation of parts of the human body, after death, may be effective."

Professor Waller said it would certainly be unwise for a doctor in Victoria to make a transplant, without ensuring consent had been obtained.

"It would be a lot better if we had a clear bit of legislation — like the human tissue legislation, which enables the transplant of the cornea."

On the question of death, Professor Waller said: "The law has not paid attention to the time of death question — it hasn't had to."

Professor Waller said there was a need for the enactment of appropriate legislation to meet this 20th century problem.

Rabbi Dr H. Freedman said that organ transplanting "will be — from the religious point of view — a very definite problem."

He said he assumed there would be a limited supply of organs and a limited supply of qualified surgical teams.

"Are we entitled or bound to draw the distinction between values of life?" he asked.